What do they really desire from art ? Art Is to drive away hours and moments of discomfort, boredom, half-bad conscience, and, if possible, transform the faults of their lives and characters Into faults of world-destiny. Very different were the Greeks, who realised in their art the outflow and overflow of their own sense of well-being and health, and loved to see their perfection once more from a standpoint outside themselves. They were led to art by delight in themselves ; our contemporaries—by disgust of themselves.

170.

THE GERMANS IN THE THEATRE.—The real theatrical talent of the Germans was Kotzebuc. He and his Germans, those of higher as well as those of middle-class society, were necessarily associated, and his contemporaries should have said of him in all seriousness, " In him we live and move and have our being." Here was nothing—no constraint, pretence, or half-enjoyment: what he could and would do was understood. Yes, until now the honest theatrical success on the German stage has been In the hands of the shamefaced or unashamed heirs of Kotzebue's methods and influence—that Is, as far as comedy still flourishes at all. The result Is that much of the Germanism of that age, sometimes far off from the great towns, stilL survives. Good-natured ; incontinent in small pleasures; always ready .for tears; with the desire, in the theatre at any rate, to be able to get rid of their Innate sobriety and strict attention to duty and exercise; a smiling, nay, a laughing indulgence; confusing goodness and sym-